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NOTES ON FISHES IN VICINITY OF ORIENT, 1922

Records are from the Sound at Orient unless otherwise stated. All lengths are in totals.

Carcharias littoralis. Sand Shark. June 14, one 3 ft. in length.

Tarpon atlanticus. Tarpon. Aug. 1, one was taken in the Sound off East Marion by Everett Bennett. This specimen was $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length and had weight of 45 pounds. Said to be the first record for the species in not less than thirty years, when the last former records were also taken off this station.

Clupea harengus. Herring. Two of the largest specimens I have yet recorded were taken on May 15. One 14 inches in length and weight of 12 ounces; the other 13 inches in length with weight of 14 ounces.

Leptocephalus conger. Conger Eel. May 17, one 23 inches in length.

Tylosurus marinus. Billfish. May 22, one 20 inches in length.

Hyporhamphus roberti. Halfbeak. June 10, ten, all 6 inches in length. On June 15, 125 were taken in one net.

Scomberesox saurus. Skipper. November 18, one 12 inches in length from Long Beach Bay. (Long Beach Bay in these notes, as in all my former notes, refers to a small bay between Long Island Sound

and Gardiner's Bay in Orient and should not be confused with the more noted bay of this name west-erly on Long Island.)

Lagodon rhomboides. Pinfish. November 18, one 5½ inches in length, Long Beach Bay. Each fall a few stragglers are recorded from this bay. It has not been taken from the Sound.

Cynoscion regalis. Weakfish. April 20, two small adults. This is the earliest arrival recorded.

Bairdiella chrysura. Silver Perch. November 15, one 9 inches in length. This is the largest specimen we have secured.

Leiostomus xanthurus. Spot. June 14, twelve 7 inches in length.

Menticirrhus saxatilis. Kingfish. May 8, one 16¾ inches in length. This specimen had a weight of two pounds and is the largest example we ever obtained.

Gadus callarias. Cod. Oct. 22, two large adults.

Paralichthys oblongus. Four-spotted Flounder. May 22, one 15 inches in length and weight of 13 ounces. This is our largest example.—ROY LATHAM, Orient, L. I., N. Y.

NOTES ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF CERTAIN ANABANTIDS AND A NEW GENERIC NAME PROPOSED

Recent authors who have treated of the *Anabantidae* (Regan, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1909; Weber and de Beaufort, Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago IV, 1922), have used *Trichopodus* Lacepede, 1802, for the genus of which *Labrus trichopterus* Pallas is the type. The accepted type of *Trichopodus* is *T. mentum* Lac. which equals *Osphronemus goramy* Lac. Therefore *Trichopodus* Lac. becomes a synonym of *Osphronemus* Lac., the latter name having priority of a few pages. The first available name for the genus is *Trichopus* Shaw, 1803, and this is the

one that should be used. Some regard this group as congeneric with *Osphronemus* but the authorities cited separate them.

The same authors have also used *Polyacanthus* (Kuhl) Cuvier, 1829, for *Polyacanthus hasselti* Cuv. & Val., as a genus distinct from *Macropodus* Lacepede, 1803. The type (logotype) of *Polyacanthus* is *Chaetodon chinensis* Bloch, a synonym of *Labrus opercularis* Linn. The type of *Macropodus* is *M. viridi-auratus* Lac., which is congeneric with *Labrus opercularis*.* If this be true, *Polyacanthus* is a synonym of *Macropodus* and the *hasselti* group is apparently without an available generic name. To supply the deficiency, *Belontia*†, new generic name, is here proposed. There are two species in the genus, *B. hasselti* (type species) and *B. signata* (Günther).

A reference to the occurrence of *Belontia signata* in Java, in Day, Fishes of India, II, p. 371, seems to have been overlooked by Weber and de Beaufort in their work cited above.—GEORGE S. MYERS, *Jersey City, N. J.*

ROA.—A GENUS OF CHAETODONT FISHES

The genus *Loa* was established by the present writer in the Proc. U. S. National Museum 1921, 633, the type, *Loa excelsa*, having been based on a specimen killed by a lava stream from Mauna Loa in Hawaii.

Dr. Charles W. Stiles calls my attention to the fact that the name *Loa* is preoccupied by *Loa* Stiles, 1905, based on the worm *Filaria loa*. The same word, *loa*, long (worm) or high, would be ROA in New Zealand, Tonga or Tahiti and may be substituted for *Loa*, the species standing as *Roa excelsa*.—DAVID STARR JORDAN, *Stanford University, Calif.*

*Both Regan and Weber & de Beaufort regard the two species as identical.

†From *Belontja*, one of the native names for the species in Palembang.

NOTES ON THE HERPETOLOGY OF ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

Preliminary to a general account of the life histories and habits of New York amphibians and reptiles, for which collections have been particularly made during the past four or five years, it is proposed to present a few notes on the fauna of localities most intensively studied.

The Salamanders of Albany County, New York.

A list of Albany County salamanders is almost a list of the species heretofore recorded from the State. The record follows with some references to the literature of those species which have not been found within recent years or whose occurrence in this section of the State might be questioned.

1. *Necturus maculosus* (Rafinesque). De Kay (New York Fauna, pt. 3, 1842) did not find the mud-puppy in the Hudson River at Albany but predicted that it would soon find its way there from the Erie Canal where he had taken specimens. It has since been found to be common not only in the Hudson and its lesser tributaries at Albany and Kenwood, N. Y. but in the Mohawk River at Crescent, N. Y. In 1887 a specimen was taken from the Albany water supply.

2. *Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens* (Rafinesque). The newt is found in all the ponds, pools and other suitable situations in the county. The red land form is very frequently seen crawling about, even at midday, among the leaves in deeply shaded, damp ravines. Albany, Kenwood, Voorheesville, Thompson's Lake, Normansville, Clarksville.

3. *Ambystoma jeffersonianum* (Green). The first specimens of this species recorded from Albany County were found Nov. 4, 1922, in the woods bordering a small swamp near Voorheesville. The thirty-three specimens collected on this date, from

the leaf mold beneath pieces of bark and logs, fall into two distinct lots which doubtless represent a difference in age of one year. Of the sixteen larger specimens having an average length of 107 mm., thirteen were over 100 mm. and only one below 90 mm. The seventeen smaller specimens averaged 62 mm. in length but varied from 52 to 78 mm. A single specimen from the same vicinity, found Nov. 11th is the latest record of the species.

4. *Ambystoma maculatum* (Shaw). The only definite record of the spotted salamander from Albany County is a specimen in the State Museum collection, taken May 4, 1904, by F. C. Paulmier in the Pine Hills section of Albany city. It is common in Rensselaer county across the river from Albany, and specimens have been received from Greene County, a few miles to the south. James Eights found a specimen a few miles from Albany but neglected to mention the exact locality.

5. *Ambystoma tigrinum* (Green). James Eights, the Albany geologist, Antarctic explorer, and zoologist, whose name was rescued from oblivion some years ago by Dr. J. M. Clarke, (Sci. Monthly, Feb. 1916) contributed an early record of the tiger salamander from the vicinity of Albany.

The account here given is taken from "The Zodiac," Vol. 1, p. 132, a monthly periodical published in Albany during the two years 1835 and 1836.

"May 28, 1835. A fine specimen of the *Salamanca tigrina*, Green, was brought to me today, having been taken within a few miles of the city, this is the second specimen yet found as far north as this, it measures seven inches in length, the first was caught in our streets, having been brought to the city in a hollow piece of wood down the Erie Canal."

One of the two specimens was presented to the Albany Institute by Dr. Eights and later came to

the State Museum bearing the label, "Erie Canal, Dr. Jas. Eights."

6. *Hemidactylium scutatum* (Schlegel). Three four-toed salamanders collected by G. H. Chadwick at Altamont in 1906 were the only specimens of the species recorded from Albany County until Nov. 4, 1922 when two females were found under logs near Voorheesville in company with several specimens of *Plethodon cinereus* and *Ambystoma jeffersonianum*.

7. *Plethodon cinereus* (Green). James Eights found the red-backed salamander at Albany in 1835 and it has apparently thrived and continued to increase ever since. There are both color phases represented in the collections from Albany, Indian Ladder, Kenwood, Voorheesville, Medusa and Normansville.

8. *Plethodon glutinosus* (Green). The slimy salamander cannot be regarded as common in Albany County for the records of captures, dating from the time of De Kay (1842) until the present, list specimens from only three localities—Albany, in 1842 and 1872; Kenwood, Oct. 1901, and Indian Ladder, May 13, 1904.

9. *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus* (Green). At the base of the Helderberg mountains, near the headwaters of the streams that have their origin in clear, cold springs, and in the springs themselves when there are flat stones for cover, the purple salamander is exceeded in numbers only by the two-lined and dusky (*D. fuscus*) salamanders. Dozens of specimens, both larvæ and adults, have been taken during the past year (1922) at the Indian Ladder and in the swamps bordering the foot of the Helderberg escarpment near Voorheesville, N. Y. The first specimens of the season were found June 15, 1922 and the last, an adult male on Dec. 3, 1922.

A specimen recorded (62 Report of the State Museum, 1909, p. 99) as an immature *Ambystoma*

tigrinum from Chilson Lake, Essex County, is this species.

10. *Eurycea bislineata* (Green). Common in the clear streams all over the county. Amoena Brook, Karners, N. Y., Indian Ladder, Thompson's Lake, Voorheesville, Albany suburbs.

11. *Eurycea longicauda* (Green). The long tailed salamander has not been found near Albany since it was first observed by Green and by De Kay (New York Fauna, 1842, p. 78); De Kay's description, and probably his figure of the species, was taken from a specimen found near the city.

12. *Pseudotriton ruber ruber* (Sonnini). At the Indian Ladder and in the swamps near Voorheesville the red salamander is found in the same springs and streams that harbor *Gyrinophilus*. The red larvæ (*P. ruber*) however, are often found in the streams that flow through muck or peaty soil while the larvæ of *Gyrinophilus* more frequently occur near the springs. Indian Ladder, April, 1915; Voorheesville, June, October, November and December 3, 1922.

13. *Desmognathus fuscus fuscus* (Rafinesque). More individuals of the dusky salamander are collected in the vicinity of Albany than any other species; the eggs too are easily discovered and on July 26, 1922, in an area 8 inches square, three females were found hiding with their egg clusters under moss that covered the mucky soil of a springy swamp near Voorheesville, N. Y. Specimens from Albany, Kenwood, Indian Ladder, Voorheesville, Medusa, East Berne, Karners, Meadowdale, Thompson's Lake.

14. *Desmognathus ochrophaeus* (Cope). This form, which is here regarded provisionally as a distinct species, is frequently found associated with *D. fuscus* under stones at the borders of streams and under bark and logs on the ground in woods. I have found no constant characters to separate it from *D. fuscus* unless its more rounded tail may be regarded

as a character of specific value. When we succeed in carrying eggs and young of the dusky salamander through all stages of development to the adult aquatic stage, it may be found that there is a period following the aquatic larval period when a more terrestrial habitat is selected, and the rounded tail is developed in response to the changed conditions.

While the marbled salamander, *Ambystoma opacum* (Gravenhorst) has not been taken in Albany County, it is of interest to note that specimens were collected by S. F. Baird at Coxsackie, Greene County in 1851 and presented to the State Museum. Coxsackie is but a few miles south of the Albany County line.—SHERMAN C. BISHOP, *New York State Museum*.

A COLLECTING NOTE ON FLORIDA BATRACHIANS

On the night of March 18, while some of the boys of the biological class of the University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla., were collecting frogs, among other species taken, were thirty specimens of the Florida Tree Frog, *Hyla gratiosa* Leconte; eight specimens of the Gopher Frog, *Rana aescopus* (Cope), and two of the Spadefoot Toad, *Scaphiopus holbrookii holbrookii* (Harlan).

These and other species were all in a pond breeding near the University. One of the party collected eggs, and brought living specimens which have spawned since, and is keeping records on the incubation and development of each species.

As there seems to be little really known concerning the breeding, especially of the Gopher Frog and the Florida Tree Frog, I consider the incident worth recording.—T. VANHYNING, *Director, Florida State Museum*.

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EDITED by J. T. NICHOLS, American Museum of Natural History.

